



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E612B (WITH MONTANA SUPPLEMENTS)

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Planting for carbon sequestration and storage

CONSERVATION PRACTICE: 612 - Tree/Shrub Establishment

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Forest

RESOURCE CONCERN: Air

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 15 years

Enhancement Description

Plant longleaf pine, shortleaf pine, or deciduous tree species and/or shrubs to sequester and store carbon. Forest stands will be managed for longer rotations and/or enhanced composition diversity to improve carbon storage.

Criteria

- States will apply criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612), and any additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.
- Species will be selected for their rate of growth, lifespan, historic range, mature size, suitability for retention as wildlife or legacy species, and/or suitability for use in long-lived sustainable wood products as well as their adaptability to current and future site conditions, including soil type.
 - **MT: Refer to [Conservation Trees and Shrubs for Montana](#) to determine the appropriate species to plant that are adapted to the site. Use [Forest Habitat Types of Montana](#) to determine the climax plant community.**
- To support forest-level carbon sequestration and storage, native plant communities, soil organic matter, standing and down woody material should be properly maintained.
- Selection of species should also be chosen according to the site's natural disturbance regime. Species should be selected based on traits, successional status, structure, and composition.
- Build forest resilience by favoring existing species that are better adapted to projected future climate conditions, and by enhancing relative compositional and structural diversity.
- Do not plant species on the Federal or State invasive species or noxious weed lists.



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- Only viable, high-quality, and site-adapted planting stock or seed will be used.
- A precondition for tree/shrub establishment is appropriately prepared sites. Refer to criteria in NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490).
- Implementation and timing of planting will be appropriate for the site and ensure successful establishment.
- Planting must be protected from unacceptable adverse impacts from insects, disease, wildlife, and/or fire. Apply supporting practices and treatments to protect establishing trees and shrubs, as necessary.
- Each site will be evaluated to determine if mulching, supplemental water, or other treatments (e.g., tree protection devices, shade cards, weed mats) will be needed to assure adequate survival and growth.
- The enhancement will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and with States' Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality.

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- ☐ Prior to implementation:
 - provide an updated Forest Management Plan that documents intended objectives for carbon sequestration and storage.
 - select a combination of species with longer life spans that are suitable for their rate of growth, historical range, mature size, suitability for retention as wildlife or legacy species, and/or suitability for use in long-lived sustainable wood products as well as their adaptability to current and future site conditions, including soil type.
 - select planting technique, arrangement and spacing design, and timing appropriate for the site conditions.

Species	Note selected species characteristic(s)



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- During implementation:
 - install and maintain erosion control measures as needed for the site.
 - protect the planting(s) from plant and animal pests and fire.
 - notify NRCS in writing of any planned changes to verify changes meet NRCS enhancement criteria.

TASK	Species	Species	Species
Planting date			
Planting Technique			
Arrangement/Spacing			

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation:
 - provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490) as it relates to implementing this enhancement. Verify the enhancement is planned for acres that have been appropriately prepared for tree/shrub establishment.
 - verify the enhancement is planned for the appropriate land use.
 - provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
 - verify no plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list are included.
 - NRCS will provide Technical Assistance, as needed, in the following:
 - Selecting a combination of species to meet enhancement criteria.
 - Selecting planting techniques, arrangement and spacing design, and timing appropriate for the site and soil conditions.
 - Planning the use of additional erosion control, as needed for the site.
- During implementation:
 - evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation:
 - verify the planned trees and shrub species were established to specifications developed for the site.
 - verify all erosion control needed for the site is functioning and is maintained to specifications developed for the site.



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NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____

Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____

Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date